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# Weekly Special Report



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## United States Guided by Partnership not Paternalism in Africa

By Jim Fisher-Thompson  
Washington File Staff  
Writer

Washington -- The guiding principle for the Bush administration's policy toward Africa remains "partnership as opposed to the paternalism of the past," Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Jendayi Frazer told scholars at Howard University in Washington April 19.



Jendayi Frazer (AP)

Speaking on transformational diplomacy and the "U.S. Agenda in Africa," Frazer said it was "an exciting time" for the continent. Economic and political "indicators are

trending positive" and President Bush is working with African partners to meet the challenges of globalization by expanding freedom and prosperity, she said.

Frazer addressed a standing-room-only audience as she delivered the 19th annual Patricia Roberts Harris lecture on the campus of what many rate as one of the top historically black universities in America. Patricia Harris, who died in 1985, was an alumnus of Howard University who went on to hold two Cabinet posts and served as U.S. ambassador to Luxembourg.

Instead of the belief that the West has all the answers, Frazer said, "The President defers to local individuals [in

(Continued on page 2)

## USAID Announces \$17 Million in Food Aid and \$8.3 Million in Non-Food Assistance to Ethiopia

Addis Ababa (U.S. Embassy) -- The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) announced on Thursday April 20, 2006 that it will provide \$17 million in food aid to Save the Children U.S. and the World Food Program (WFP) for their emergency operations in the Somali region

of Ethiopia. Additionally, USAID will be providing a contribution of \$8.3 million in non-food assistance to NGOs for targeted nutritional, water, and sanitation programs in Ethiopia.

This is in addition to more than \$31 million in emergency humanitarian food



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## United States Guided by Partnership not Paternalism in Africa . . .

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Africa]... to develop the best solution for their own communities -- partnership with those who best know how to change their own societies."

She pointed out the relationship is more than just words. Since 2001, U.S. aid to Africa has risen from the \$700 million to \$800 million range to about \$4.6 billion in 2006. For example, under the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) program, Africa will receive more than \$1 billion in 2006 to battle the disease that threatens to destroy the continent's most valuable possession -- its youth. The emergency plan, announced in 2003, is providing funds to fight the pandemic, with a special focus on 15 hardest-hit countries. (See HIV/AIDS ([http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/global\\_issues/hiv\\_aids.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/global_issues/hiv_aids.html)).)

On the economic front, Frazer mentioned development programs like the Bush debt-relief initiative for poorer sub-Saharan nations; loans and grants for projects under the new Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC); and the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), which increased U.S. imports from Africa by more than 80 percent in 2005, compared to the previous year.

More than 98 percent of African imports now enter the United States duty-free under AGOA, the trade preference program that is reducing barriers to trade and helping spur the continent's trade and manufacturing sectors. (See Millennium Challenge Account ([http://usinfo.state.gov/ei/economic\\_issues/mca.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/ei/economic_issues/mca.html)) and African Growth and Opportunity

Act ([http://usinfo.state.gov/af/africa/trade\\_economic\\_development/agoa.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/af/africa/trade_economic_development/agoa.html)).)

The guiding principle behind these programs, Frazer said, was "doing things with people and not just for them."

"African countries are among the strategic powers of today," she said, adding that nations like Nigeria, South Africa and Angola have oil wealth and are regional powers making contributions to regional stability.

Though conflict remains, "Africa is on its way to a future free of war," and the United States is a part of that process, Frazer said.

After the deaths of U.S. troops in Somalia in 1993 many policymakers were reluctant to commit U.S. ground forces to Africa again but President Bush followed through in Liberia, Frazer noted, overcoming a "huge [policy] hurdle."

In 2003, U.S. military forces were dispatched to Liberia to support the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) forces in the aftermath of chaos sparked by then-President Charles Taylor. This marked the "first time American boots touched African soil for a peace operation in nearly a decade," she said.

Now, again with the crisis in Darfur in Sudan, "the president is personally involved" and will continue the policy of supporting regional conflict solvers like the African Union (AU), the official said.

The same day Frazer spoke, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice

told a foreign affairs audience in Chicago the AU mission was "doing a good job. But it's too small, it's not mobile enough, it's not capable of getting to the outer reaches. Darfur is the size of Texas."

"And so a small force of 7,000 people is not going to be able to provide security. We want a more robust force, at least twice that size. We want it to be a U.N. force," Rice said.

Asked about U.S. policy toward Zimbabwe, Frazer said "neither quiet nor loud diplomacy has worked to keep [President Robert] Mugabe from destroying his country."

Diplomacy has been an integral part of the Patricia Harris Public Affairs Program established at Howard in 1987. The program is a part of the Ralph J. Bunche International Affairs Center that since 1993 has been the focal point for international activities at the university.

Provost and Chief Academic Officer Richard English said for many years "there has been an historic interest in Africa on this campus." And the Bunche Center has featured appearances by the heads of state of a number of African countries. African ambassadors attending the Frazer lecture included those from: Egypt, Madagascar, Gabon, Lesotho, Equatorial Guinea, Angola, Benin, Zambia and South Africa.

For information on U.S. policy in the region, see Africa (<http://usinfo.state.gov/af/>). ♦

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## Director of New U.S. Aid Mission to Sudan Takes Oath of Office

By Jim Fisher-Thompson  
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- Top policymakers for Africa gathered at the headquarters of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) April 20 to observe the swearing in of Katherine J. Almquist as mission director for Sudan and to celebrate a new era of American assistance to Africa's largest nation.

In a press release issued the same day, USAID announced the re-establishment of its Sudan mission, which had been closed in 1992 after sanctions passed by Congress brought an end to U.S. development assistance.

Sudan, one of the largest recipients of U.S. aid worldwide, "will continue to be one of the Agency's flagship rebuilding-state programs," said U.S. Director of Foreign Assistance and USAID Administrator Randall Tobias.

Almquist will be leaving her job in Washington as USAID deputy assistant secretary for Africa to head offices in Khartoum and in the southern city of Juba. She will oversee a development and humanitarian assistance budget worth more than \$850 million.

Her accession is historically significant because it ushers in a new development relationship made possible by the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) between the government of Khartoum and the Southern Peoples' Liberation Movement (SPLM) in 2005.

During her tenure in the country, Almquist also will serve as the U.S. representative to Sudan's Assessment and Evaluation Commission, which oversees the implementation of the CPA.

Tobias administered the oath of office to Almquist, who pledged, like all federal officials, to defend and uphold the U.S. Constitution.



**(Left to right) Katherine Almquist takes her oath, as her mother, Janell Almquist and USAID Administrator Randall L. Tobias look on. (USAID photo)**

Tobias said Almquist was an excellent choice to head up the new Sudan effort because, "Kate has been a critical member of the senior management team here at USAID" and has been involved with Sudan issues for many years. As director of the Sudan Task Force at USAID she was responsible for providing policy direction and program coordination for USAID activities in Sudan and for preparing the Agency's post-conflict strategies."

As the new Sudan mission director, Tobias said, "I know she [Almquist] will continue to be an advocate for the Sudanese people and will work in partnership with

other donors and political leaders to bring about lasting change" in Sudan.

Almquist said she looked forward to living in Sudan and working "in Partnership" with Sudanese of all political backgrounds to undo the social and economic devastation wrought by 22 years of civil war.

High on her agenda, she said, was to tie together various USAID Sudan-related efforts in places like Juba, Khartoum and Nairobi, Kenya; continue to help with reconstruction in the south; uniting disaffected areas better with the north; help establish a government of national unity and work on the humanitarian crisis in Darfur.

In 2005, USAID spent \$467 million on humanitarian relief in Darfur, including: \$347 million for desperately needed food and \$11 million for conflict resolution. That year, the U.S. government also provided \$150 million for the African Union peacekeeping mission in Darfur.

The full text ([http://www.usaid.gov/press/releases/2006/pr060421\\_1.html](http://www.usaid.gov/press/releases/2006/pr060421_1.html)) of the USAID press release is available on the agency's Web site.

For additional information on U.S. assistance to Sudan, see Darfur Humanitarian Emergency (<http://usinfo.state.gov/af/africa/darfur.html>).

*(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>) ♦*

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## U.N. Security Council Issues Sanctions Against Four Sudanese

By Judy Aita  
Washington File United Nations  
Correspondent

United Nations -- The Security Council has imposed sanctions on four Sudanese found responsible for committing atrocities in Darfur.

Resolution 1672, which was adopted by a vote of 12-0, with China, Russia and Qatar abstaining, was part of three separate actions taken by the 15-nation Security Council April 25 to stand behind its policies on Sudan, put pressure on the parties in Darfur to conclude a cease-fire agreement by the end of April and speak out against the growing instability along the Chad-Sudan border.

The four individuals are Major General Gaffar Mohamed Elhassan, commander of the Western Military Region for the Sudanese Armed Forces; Sheik Musa Hilal, paramount chief of the Jalul Tribe in North Darfur; Adam Yacub Shant, Sudanese Liberation Army commander, and Gabril Abdul Kareem Badri, of the Movement for Reform and Development.

U.S. Ambassador John Bolton had presented a draft resolution April 18 to impose sanctions on the four Sudanese. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/af/Archive/2006/Apr/19-233738.html>)).

In Washington, State Department deputy spokesman Adam Ereli said that passage of the resolution "is a down payment toward justice and accountability in Sudan."

"The United States will continue to work with the international community to press the Sudanese

government and the rebel movements to stop the violence in Darfur, rein in the Jingaweit militias, rapidly conclude a peace agreement in Abuja, Nigeria, and hold accountable all who are responsible for crimes against the people of Darfur," Ereli said.

The sanctions, which involve freezing assets and imposing travel restrictions, were authorized by the council in Resolution 1591, adopted in March 2005. Sanctions can be imposed on individu-

Council is serious in its effort to restore peace and security in the region and that, far from interfering in the peace process in Abuja, it will strengthen that process."

"It should indicate to all the parties in the conflict in Darfur we are determined to bring this to a peaceful resolution and restore peace and security for the people of Darfur, who have been most adversely affected by the conflict," the ambassador said.



**In this photo provided by the United Nations, the U.N. Security Council votes Tuesday, April 25, 2006, to slap sanctions on four men involved in the violence in the Darfur region of Sudan. (AP Photo/The United Nations, Mark Garten)**

als who impede the peace process, violate international human rights laws or commit other atrocities or conduct banned military flights over the region. The United Kingdom submitted a list of 12 individuals to the sanctions committee earlier in April, and the majority of members determined that there was sufficient evidence to impose sanctions on the four.

U.S. Ambassador John Bolton said that the sanctions "demonstrate that the Security

Bolton, who is the chief U.S. envoy to the United Nations, added that the United States is prepared to press ahead with sanctions against others in Darfur as sufficient evidence becomes available. "There is a wide variety of possibilities for sanctions and we do intend to pursue them vigorously," he said.

That the four sanctioned individuals come from all parties to the conflict "wasn't done intention-

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## USAID Announces \$17 Million in Food Aid and \$8.3 Million in Non- . . .

*(Continued from page 1)*

and non-food assistance already provided by the United States to Ethiopia since October 2005. Approximately 250,000 MT of FY 2005 commodities donated by the U.S. are also being used to address the needs of the most vulnerable in Ethiopia this year.

This increase in funding will miti-

gate the effects of the crisis in the Horn of Africa.

We urge other donor governments to act quickly to help alleviate the current suffering and to help prevent human catastrophe in the Horn of Africa. Both food assistance and non-food assistance (medicines, immunizations, well rehabilitation and emergency live-

stock interventions) are urgently required.

The United States stands ready to contribute further in the coming months if the situation warrants it.

For more information about the U.S. Agency for International Development, visit our Web site at [www.usaid.gov](http://www.usaid.gov). ♦

## U.N. Security Council Issues Sanctions Against Four Sudanese . . .

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ally," Bolton said. "But it does show the nature of the conflict and how serious it is."

British Ambassador Emyr Jones Parry spoke of "the message we sent to the parties, whoever they are: If they do involve themselves in crimes against humanity, the sort of atrocities we have seen in Darfur, we will come after them."

"It will actually help the Abuja process to demonstrate that impunity cannot actually be allowed to continue," he said.

Jones Parry, who will lead a Security Council mission to Sudan in early June, said that the council's reputation was at stake if it did not impose sanctions.

The Security Council also adopted two presidential statements. One reiterated support for the African Union-led peace talks. "The Security Council calls on and expects the parties in Abuja to consider in good faith proposals to be made by the mediator with a view to reaching peace, security and stability in Darfur and Sudan as a whole. It emphasizes that working toward a positive outcome is a collective responsibility of all the parties in the conflict," the members said in a statement read at a formal meeting by Chinese Ambassador Wang Guangya, president of the council for April.

In the other presidential statement, the council expressed its "deep concern" over the deterio-

rating relations between Chad and Sudan. It urged the two governments to abide by their obligations under their February agreement and "urgently start implementing the confidence-building measures" that had been agreed upon.

"Both Sudan and Chad must refrain from any actions that violate the border," the council said.

For more information, see Darfur Humanitarian Emergency (<http://usinfo.state.gov/af/africa/darfur.html>).

*(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)* ♦

## Democracy Reaching New Levels in Kenya . . .

*(Continued from page 6)*

Ayittey, a Ghanaian who has written several books on Africa's overdependence on foreign aid, pointed out that the African Union estimates that corruption costs the continent \$148 billion a year. In addition, he said, \$80 billion in capital leaves Africa each year.

"We want to end this culture of looting with impunity," Ayittey told the Cato audience.

For information on U.S. policy, see Africa (<http://usinfo.state.gov/af/>) and Bribery and Corruption ([\[economic\\\_issues/bribery\\\_and\\\_corruption.html\]\(http://usinfo.state.gov/ei/economic\_issues/bribery\_and\_corruption.html\)\).](http://usinfo.state.gov/ei/</a></p></div><div data-bbox=)

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## Democracy Reaching New Levels in Kenya, "Whistleblower" Says

By Jim Fisher-Thompson  
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington – Although corruption continues to be a factor in Kenya, a growing culture of political accountability slowly is taking hold, making it harder for politicians to "buy" elections, says that country's former anti-corruption czar, John Githongo.

Githongo told a March 29 seminar entitled *Corruption in Kenya: A Whistleblower's Account* that he was optimistic about the political future of his homeland and of democracy in general in Africa, despite a reform battle that he ultimately lost. The seminar was sponsored by the Cato Institute, a nonprofit public policy research foundation in Washington.

"Democracy has reached a new level in Kenya, [and] the truth is that spending \$100 million can no longer buy you an election," he said.

The economist and reformer was permanent secretary for governance and ethics in Kenya until he resigned in February 2005 following pressure -- including death threats -- over a corruption scandal he uncovered that involved millions of dollars and top officials in President Mwai Kibaki's administration.

At the time of Githongo's resignation, State Department deputy spokesman Adam Ereli called his departure from government a "severe setback." "It is our hope," Ereli added, "that the government of Kenya will act quickly to ensure that his departure does not mean

that anti-corruption efforts will falter."

A reform coalition helped elect Kibaki president in 2002 based on his pledge to end government corruption in the East African nation. Shortly afterwards, Githongo, an economist who



John Githongo

headed Transparency International in Kenya and who battled corruption in the era of Daniel arap Moi, was appointed to the ethics post.

Githongo's disclosures led to the prosecutions of some top Kenyan officials, who were charged with funneling non-bid, overpriced government contracts to fictitious "entities." Githongo now practically lives in exile in England, where he teaches at university and consults on governance issues for Transparency International.

In 2002, Kenyans "voted for a change in the way they were governed, towards a more transparent, accountable government," Githongo told the Cato audi-

ence. "They were tired of the old order and wanted something new, something better. This hunger for change was not a uniquely Kenyan phenomenon. Across the African continent, similar expectation of change had [occurred] and continues to coalesce."

A major lesson learned in that election, Githongo said, was that money alone no longer determined the winner. The ruling party outspent the united opposition considerably and still lost. This was a sea change in Kenyan politics, he said.

Urban areas, especially, are less open to the old "patronage system," and the proof, he said, is that ruling elites are losing elections. "Kenyans seem to pity the [corrupt] government as much as be angry at its incompetence," he added.

On a personal level, "people [voters] may like your style [as a politician], but are more likely now to vote their conscience. They will take the free grain and T-shirts [handed out by political candidates] and then vote the way they want to," he explained.

This new political reality also undermines the rationale some politicians voice for needing huge amounts of money for their campaigns. "The justification that money is needed for politics is false," Githongo said. Only about 20 percent of the money politicians raise is used for "vote-getting," he said -- the rest "goes into private hands" and into overseas bank accounts.



Professor George Ayittey

Professor George Ayittey of American University in Washington commented on Githongo's presentation, saying: "He is one courageous man. It is not easy to expose corruption in Africa and live!"

*(Continued on page 5)*

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## Irrigation Helping Farmers Survive in Drought-Stricken Kenya

As Kenya faces one of its worst food shortages in decades, John Aprika and his wife Rhoda have their own food stocks and cattle. Despite the region's rugged and seemingly lifeless landscape, papaya and cowpea grow in their small farm plot, along with neem trees, which are known to enhance nitrogen in the soil and act as an insecticide. The money the Aprikas have saved from selling their produce has enabled all five of their children to stay in school.

The Aprikas are among the fortunate farmers to benefit from an irrigation project funded by the U. S. Agency for International Development (USAID). Since 1992, USAID has worked with World Vision, an international relief and development group, to help the Aprikas and other neighbors move from a high-risk to a sustainable lifestyle.

The irrigation scheme uses catch-

ments from the highlands to irrigate half-acre plots for more than 3,500 farmers. Farmers pay dues



**Three Kenyan farmers demonstrating how the USAID funded water pump works. (USAID photo)**

to finance paying workers, leveling land, constructing boreholes and canals, buying seeds and supplies, and training. Many farmers store their harvests in a communal grain store, which acts much like a bank. Farmers can "withdraw" grain as they need it, which helps families keep their harvests longer.

The Aprikas have not needed food assistance for more than 10 years. Their farm receives regular watering from nearby irrigation pumps. They keep a small herd of cattle for protein and for sale, a far cry from their former lives as pastoralists.

"It was not hard to change because we had the training and support from the project," John Aprika noted.

Project recipients have told World Vision that they no longer need the organization's daily oversight and can manage the program by themselves. In development work, that is truly a sign of a successful project.

*(Distributed by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>) ♦*

## U.S. Law Enforcement Promoting Data Exchange on Terrorism. . .

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users to exchange information without losing it in translation.

Developed by the ATF in coordination with the International Association of Bomb Technicians and Investigators, DFuze currently is used by law enforcement agencies in 10 countries, including Colombia, Mexico, Singapore and the United Kingdom, said McDermond.

The ATF is a U.S. government agency specializing in the enforcement of federal firearms laws, investigation of crimes involving arson or explosives and efforts to

combat illegal diversion of alcohol and tobacco products within the United States.

Since 1996, the bureau has served as the national repository for all information on law enforcement incidents involving arson and explosives in the United States. DFuze is an international counterpart to the bureau's Bomb Arson Tracking System, a database with more than 37,000 incident files that is currently used by nearly 700 federal, state and local law enforcement agencies in the United States.

Internationally, the ATF currently is providing training to the Iraqi Police Service, as well as ongoing explosives and firearms training at three international law enforcement academies maintained by the U.S. State Department in Hungary, Botswana and Thailand. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/Archive/2005/Jun/03-362574.html>)).

For more information, see Response to Terrorism ([http://usinfo.state.gov/is/international\\_security/terrorism.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/is/international_security/terrorism.html)). ♦

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## United States Condemns Dahab Terrorist Attacks

By David Shelby  
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington – President Bush and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice condemned the April 24 terrorist bombings that ripped through shops and restaurants in the heart of the Egyptian Red Sea resort of Dahab, killing and wounding scores of Egyptians and foreign tourists.

"I strongly condemn the killings that took place, the innocent life lost in Egypt. It was a heinous act against innocent civilians," Bush told a crowd at a political rally in Las Vegas. "The United States sends our condolences to the families of those who were killed. We keep those who were injured in our thoughts and prayers."

Initial news reports placed the death toll as high as 30, with as many as 200 wounded. Three bombs went off shortly after sunset in the central part of town, where large crowds of tourists were shopping and dining.

The attack coincides with the Coptic Easter and Shem al-Nessim holidays in Egypt, when many Egyptians and resident expatriates travel to the Red Sea beach resorts.

The Red Sea resorts along the coast of the Sinai Peninsula, known for their prime scuba diving, are popular with Egyptian, European and Israeli tourists. Initial reports indicated that some foreign nationals were among the dead in Dahab, but authorities were not able to provide the number or nationalities of the victims as of 6 p.m. EDT (0000 GMT, April 25).



**Egyptians demonstrate against violence in Dahab. Two peacekeepers have been wounded in a suicide attack in northern Sinai, two days after triple bombings killed at least 18 people in Dahab. (AFP/Khaled Desouki)**

Secretary Rice, who currently is traveling in Greece, issued a statement saying, "There can be no justification for this barbaric act of terrorism. Our thoughts and prayers are with the people of Egypt in this time of grief." She said the United States has offered the Egyptian government whatever assistance it needs in dealing with this attack, and affirmed the United States' support for Egypt in its efforts to bring the perpetrators to justice.

The Dahab attack marks the third time terrorists have struck Egyptian Red Sea resorts in the past two years. Bombings at Taba and Ras Shitan in October 2004 killed more than 30 people, and a July 2005 attack in Sharm el-Sheikh killed more than 60. Egyptian authorities blamed those bombings on local groups operating in the Sinai Peninsula.

(See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/is/Archive/2004/Oct/12-289874.html>).

For information on U.S. policies, see Response to Terrorism ([http://usinfo.state.gov/is/international\\_security/terrorism.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/is/international_security/terrorism.html)).

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## Bush Urges Calm, Respectful Discussion of Immigration Reform

By Jane A. Morse  
Washington File Staff Writer

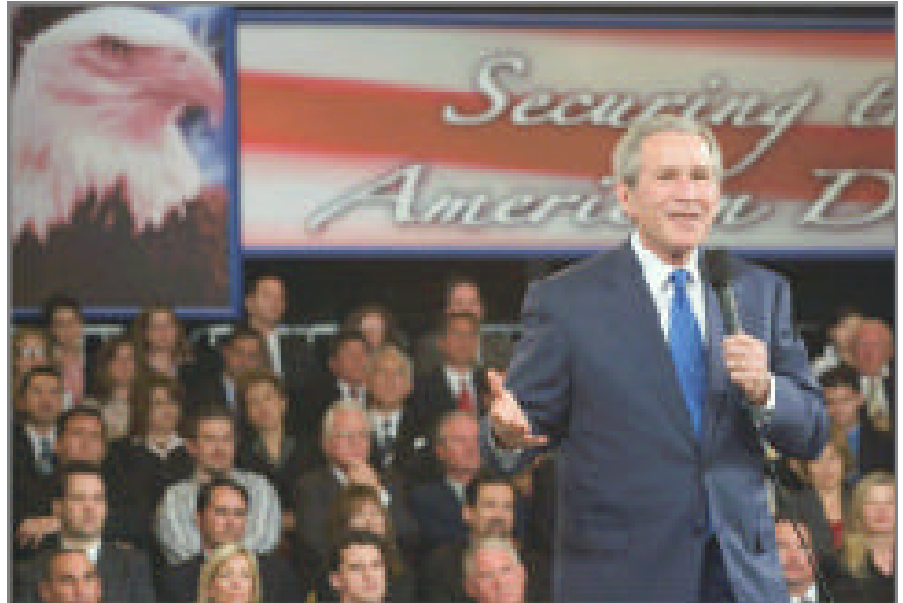
Washington -- Acknowledging that immigration is "an emotional subject," President Bush nonetheless called for a calm, rational, respectful national discussion regarding illegal immigration and immigration reform.

During an April 24 press conference in Orange County, California, the president emphasized the importance of discussing immigration issues "in a respectful way that recognizes we are a nation of immigrants, that we have had a grand tradition in this country of welcoming people into our society, and ours is a society that is able to take the newly arrived, and they become equally American."

Immigration, Bush said, "has helped reinvigorate the soul of America." But he also emphasized that "to make sure immigration laws work, you got to enforce the laws on the books," adding that "you can be a nation of law and a compassionate nation at the same time."

The president called for an increase in personnel both for border controls and for internal enforcement of immigration laws. Bush also reiterated his support for a temporary worker program that will identify and legalize immigrant workers.

Immigration reform would undercut the human smuggling industry with a "rational policy" that would treat people with respect, Bush said. "[O]ne thing we cannot lose sight of is that we're talking about human beings, decent human beings that need to be treated with



**President George W. Bush speaks on comprehensive immigration reform as he addresses the Orange County Business Council Monday, April 24, 2006, in Irvine, Calif. White House photo by Eric Draper**

respect."

"Massive deportation of the people here is unrealistic. It's just not going to work," Bush said. People should be allowed to work in the United States "on a temporary basis" as defined by Congress.

At the same time, Bush emphasized, "a person should never be granted automatic citizenship." Those who break the law by entering the United States illegally should pay a penalty and go to the "back of the line" to enter the United States legally, he said.

The president also called on immigrants to learn English, "which is part of the American system."

Bush summed up the current debate on immigration as one that "requires clear, rational thought."

It is important, especially for

America's leadership, "to remember that we're a nation of law, a welcoming nation, a nation that honors people's traditions no matter where they're from, because we got confidence in the capacity of our nation to make us all Americans, one nation, under God," he said.

For more information on U.S. policies, see Visas, Passports, and Immigration ([http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/global\\_issues/immigration.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/global_issues/immigration.html)).

### WAR ON TERROR

Bush also spoke at length on the ongoing War on Terror.

He said the first lesson of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the United States is that "we face an enemy that has no regard for innocent life, an enemy

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## Development, Democracy Key to Defeating Terrorism

Washington -- The United States and its allies, in addition to military efforts against terrorism, also help communities build an alternative future to terrorism's ideology of hatred and violence, says Air Force Command Chief Master Sergeant Curtis L. Brownhill, an adviser to the U.S. military's Central Command (CENTCOM).

"The weapon systems [we use] are well-drilling equipment and shovels, and building schools and hospitals, and training border patrols and counterterrorism forces," Brownhill said in an April 18 interview with Armed Forces Press Service.

Experts agree that terrorists seek out insecure and underdeveloped regions from which to base their operations. Once established, terrorists build support and recruit new members by exploiting local

historic grievances, or the political and economic conditions under repressive regimes. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/mena/Archive/2006/Feb/27-650254.html>).)



**Chief Master Sergeant  
Curtis L. Brownhill**

One successful example, Brownhill said, was CENTCOM's Combined Task Force Horn of Africa, a small group of American soldiers who work closely with other U.S. government agencies, nongovernmental relief organizations and host governments in Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, Uganda, Sudan and Yemen on joint development projects and training programs that already are improving lives in some of the world's poorest communities.

The task force successfully is helping partner countries develop custom counterterrorist strategies and providing training to security forces, which, "has provided confidence and capacity, and the people have pushed back from al-Qaida and associated movements trying to find another Afghanistan," said Brownhill.

These programs are an essential component of America's national security strategy, which holds that by helping nations to develop their own democratic institutions and prosperous societies, the United States can promote peace and international stability.

For more information, see Response to Terrorism ([http://usinfo.state.gov/is/international\\_security/terrorism.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/is/international_security/terrorism.html)).

*(Distributed by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>) ♦*

## U.S. Law Enforcement Promoting Data Exchange on Terrorism

By David I. McKeeby  
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- Within hours of the July 2005 bombing of a London commuter train, Scotland Yard was able call upon law enforcement expertise worldwide, thanks to DFuze, a database developed by the U.S. Department of Justice's Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF).

"DFuze allows our foreign partners to seamlessly transfer knowledge as a case unfolds," making

the database a useful tool in the global war on terrorism, said Jim McDermond, ATF assistant director of strategic intelligence in an April 25 press briefing.

Launched in 2004, DFuze is an encrypted database available to participating law enforcement and allied government organizations to help collect, analyze and exchange information related to incidents involving explosives or arson, technical information about recovered devices, perpetrators and methods of bomb delivery, as well as re-

sponse data concerning chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear devices.

DFuze provides investigators and analysts with built-in tools for imaging, secure record transmissions, high-speed data searches, multimedia intelligence management and the ability to print hard copy reports. In addition, DFuze offers a multilingual user interface with the ability to translate its data fields into Arabic, English, French, Portuguese or Spanish, allowing

*(Continued on page 7)*

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## President Bush Honors Environmental Protection Efforts

Washington-- President Bush and Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Stephen L. Johnson awarded 49 young Americans the 2005 Presidential Environmental Youth Award (PEYA).

The April 20 ceremony recognized 10 projects, designed by "young stewards of the environment ... setting a good example for what it means to be a citizen," the president said.

One project, the "Parker Branch Stream Team," was established by four Arkansas sixth- and eighth-graders. Members worked to preserve the beauty and ecological value of a stream southwest of Fayetteville, Arkansas, by taking water samples, performing physical and biological assessments of the watershed, and collaborating with county and state officials on a number of preservation projects.

Another project, led by the Southeastern Natural Sciences Academy's "Creek Freaks," traced the raw sewage polluting an Augusta, Georgia, area creek and spurred its clean up. "I think the creek's health has improved as has the attitude of the community," project member John Hughes told the Augusta Chronicle.

Michigan honoree Kacy Hermans created a "rain garden." Planted with Michigan wildflowers and plants, the garden cools runoff,

filters pollutants and percolates water into the ground.

President Richard M. Nixon established the PEYA program in

A full list (<http://www.epa.gov/enviroed/peya2005.html>) of the 2005 award winners can be found on the EPA Web site.



**President George W. Bush speaks to the 2006 Recipients of the President's Environmental Youth Awards during a ceremony held in the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building Thursday, April 20, 2006. White House photo.**

1971. It is administered by the Environmental Protection Agency and aims to encourage individuals, school classes, summer camps, youth organizations and public interest groups to promote environmental awareness and encourage positive community involvement.

For additional information, see Environment ([http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/global\\_issues/environment.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/global_issues/environment.html)).

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## Bush Administration Launches New Global Conservation Initiatives

The following statement on the United States and international conservation efforts was by the State Department issued April 20:

(begin text)

### THE U.S. AND INTERNATIONAL CONSERVATION

Partnership for a Better Environment

The United States has a long history of conservation. Today, natural resources worldwide are under pressure. The U.S. State Department believes that by working with other governments, organizations and civil society, we can together meet the global conservation challenge. To this end, the Bush Administration, assisted by the Department's Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs (OES), has launched new global initiatives and partnerships, including those highlighted here.

### COALITION AGAINST WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING

The Coalition was launched by OES Assistant Secretary of State Claudia A. McMurray in September 2005 to fight the \$10 billion annual black market in wildlife and wildlife parts — a black market second only to trafficking in arms and drugs and often involving the same criminals and smuggling routes. Unchecked demand for exotic pets, rare foods, trophies, and traditional medicines is driving elephants, tigers, tropical birds, and many other species near to extinction, threatening global biodiversity, and providing a potential pathway for the spread of avian influenza and other diseases. The global Coalition seeks to raise po-

litical and public awareness, educate consumers, and strengthen wildlife enforcement.

Coalition Partners: India, United Kingdom, United States, American Forest & Paper Association, Cheetham Conservation Fund, Conservation International, Humane Society International, International Fund for Animal Welfare, Save the Tiger Fund, Smithsonian Institution, TRAFFIC International, Wildlife Conservation Society, WildAid, World Wildlife Fund

### PRESIDENT'S INITIATIVE AGAINST ILLEGAL LOGGING

Launched in 2003, the President's Initiative is helping fight illegal logging and related trade and corruption in the forest sector worldwide. The U.S. has provided \$4 million to launch what is now a \$10 million, multi-donor initiative to reform Liberia's forest sector after 14 years of devastating civil war. We have initiated and co-sponsored ground breaking regional Ministerial Conferences on forest law enforcement in Asia, Africa and Europe to foster political commitment to fight forest crime. We are working with Indonesia on a new cooperative effort to combat illegal logging. Through the Congo Basin Forest Partnership and Tropical Forest Conservation Act's innovative debt-for-nature program, the U.S. is contributing or generating \$150 million to conserve tropical forests worldwide.

### INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES AND MARINE CONSERVATION

The U.S. leads the world in efforts to better conserve and manage international fisheries and curtail overfishing. We are spearheading initiatives to reduce the overca-

capacity of the world's fishing fleet and crack down on illegal fishing. Several regional fisheries organizations have adopted U.S. proposals to ban the slaughter of sharks for their fins (the essential ingredient in shark fin soup.) Sixteen nations have followed our lead in adopting measures to protect endangered sea turtles during shrimp trawl fishing. Through the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations we have produced measures to reduce sea turtle and seabird mortality in longline fishing.

### CONSERVATION THROUGH TRADE

The Bush Administration believes that trade and environment objectives can and must be mutually supportive. Our Free Trade Agreements with Central America, Jordan, Morocco, Peru, and Singapore all include environmental cooperation provisions and related action programs to help ensure that expanded trade enhances, rather than detracts from, protection of the environment. For example, we will be cooperating with our trading partners on joint projects to protect wildlife habitats, conserve biodiversity, address wildlife and timber trafficking, and work together regionally and globally to conserve natural resources from forests to coral reefs.

### NEXT STEPS

Trafficking in wildlife, timber, and fisheries is a global challenge requiring sustained action by government and non-government organizations alike. Partners to the Coalition Against Wildlife Trafficking will meet in Fall 2006 to identify priorities and a plan of action. ♦

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## Earth Day Starts as Actress Named U.S. Special Wildlife Envoy

By Jim Fisher-Thompson  
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- Actress Bo Derek officially was named U.S. special envoy of the secretary of state for wildlife trafficking in an April 21 ceremony at the State Department on the eve of Earth Day 2006.

Deputy Secretary of State Robert Zoellick made the announcement the day before the annual observance of Earth Day in the United States and around the world. Since Earth Day was first established in 1970, the spring season has been set aside by governments and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) to address the fragile state of earth's environment and wildlife.

Zoellick, an environmentalist himself who was awarded the "Song of the World Award" in 2005 for his work to eliminate the use of unnecessary driftnets in fishing, introduced Derek to the State Department audience saying her main job would be to bring awareness of the growing menace of wildlife trafficking.

The illegal trade in exotic pets, rare foods, trophies and traditional medicines is now worth \$10 billion a year -- second only to the trafficking of arms and drugs. It threatens to drive elephants, tigers, tropical birds and other species to near extinction if left unchecked.

Derek will spearhead an alliance of global partners called the Coalition Against Wildlife Trafficking (CAWT) established by the State Department in September 2005. Included in the CAWT coalition are international NGOs like WildAid, World Wildlife Fund and

Save the Tiger Fund, as well as the governments of the United Kingdom and India.



Bo Derek designated special U.S. envoy for wildlife trafficking (AFP photo)

Derek said she felt honored to be named a U.S. special envoy.

An active member of the NGO WildAid for five years, Derek said she recently went on an environmental cruise sponsored by the organization and was shocked to learn how sharks were slaughtered for their fins and "how this was such a global problem."

But things "are not hopeless," Derek said. It is a challenge "to enable people and wildlife to live together" but coalitions like CAWT can make a difference and makes "me want to be a part of this cause."

Derek said it was easy to contribute inadvertently to illegal trafficking -- "I'm guilty as well." In the past she said she bought ivory, coral and tortoise shell products

without realizing they were smuggled or represented endangered species. "So much of this is public awareness."

That is why the CAWT coalition is important, the actress said. "It brings public and political awareness" to the trafficking problem and highlights measures to remedy the growing threat to all of earth's citizens.

CAWT is focusing its initial efforts on Asia where trafficking in wildlife is a major problem. After the Association of South East Asian (ASEAN) nations agreed in 2004 to a regional plan of action to combat the trade, the State Department on July 2005 said it would help train ASEAN law enforcement and other wildlife officials to counter poaching, especially of tigers.

Following Derek, Under Secretary of State for Democracy and Global Affairs Paula Dobriansky hosted a discussion on trade and environment, wildlife and forest conservation and water issues.

A transcript (<http://www.state.gov/s/d/rem/2006/64947.htm>) of the remarks at the ceremony is available on the State Department Web site.

For more information on U.S. policies, see Environment ([http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/global\\_issues/environment.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/global_issues/environment.html)).

*(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>) ♦*



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## Earth Day Highlights Year-Round Eco-Friendly Activities

By Charlene Porter  
Washington File Staff Writer



Washington -- In parks, wetlands and forests, Americans will volunteer on Earth Day to pick-up trash, pull invasive weeds and perform a myriad of other tasks to help protect and improve the environment.

These activities are organized in a festive and celebratory way, but represent only a fraction of the work done day after day to protect the environment.

The 36-year history of Earth Day is marked by the steady advance of policies reflecting greater awareness and consideration of how human activities affect the planet's delicate ecological balance. But policies must be based in knowledge, and that is the contribution NASA makes to environmental science.

In every hour of every day, NASA is collecting enormous amounts of satellite data that reveal important information about the Earth and the atmosphere. Scientists, public officials, teachers and students all use these data to further the world's understanding of the planet's complex systems. Ecological and weather forecasting, response to natural disasters,

air and water quality management, coastal management and agricultural forecasting all rely on analysis of NASA data.

For example, NASA radar data focused on an oil freighter that ran aground in the Bering Sea, helping the U.S. Coast Guard monitor the broken pieces of the ship and its seeping oil. And rainfall data gathered by the Goddard Space Flight Center in Maryland help a U.S.-Africa partnership better understand the prospects for famine.

### SOYBEAN POWER

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is trying to reduce the environmental impact of the ships it uses to research the waters of the Great Lakes. NOAA successfully is operating a petroleum-free vessel by using soybean power to run the research vessel Huron.

"NOAA has a commitment to stewardship of the environment, and this research vessel, the R/V Huron Explorer, demonstrates that commitment in very practical ways," said Stephen B. Brandt, NOAA acting deputy assistant administrator for oceanic and atmospheric research. "Environmentally friendly vessels are better suited to tread lightly on the ecosystems they help research."

The U.S. Department of Energy's Federal Energy Management Program recognized NOAA this Earth Day week for its transition to alternative fuels.

Two other NOAA ships that sail the Great Lakes partially are fueled by biologically based fuels.

### KIDS AND PARKS

Stirring environmental consciousness and a love of the outdoors is a recurring Earth Day theme, one that the National Park Service (NPS) has adopted as it celebrates National Park Week April 22-30.

"This year's theme, 'Connecting our Children to America's National Parks,' reflects the National Park Service's commitment to encouraging young people to enjoy outdoor recreation and better appreciate our Nation's beauty and history," says a NPS press release.

President Bush issued a proclamation declaring National Park Week and urging all Americans to celebrate the parks and become active in park conservation. See "President Issues National Park Week Proclamation (<http://www.nps.gov/applications/digest/headline.cfm?type=Announcements&id=4367>)" on the National Park Service Web site.

More information on NASA Earth System Science and Data Services (<http://www.nasadaacs.eos.nasa.gov/>) is available on the NASA Web site.

More information on the President's Youth Environment Awards (<http://www.epa.gov/enviroed/peya2005.html>) is available on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Web site.

Earth Day.gov (<http://www.earthday.gov/>), a special U.S. government Web site, provides information on the Earth Day activities of federal agencies. ♦

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## Human Trafficking a Global Problem, U.N. Report Says

By Judy Aita

Washington File United Nations Correspondent

United Nations -- Human trafficking is a global problem and no country, developed or developing, is immune, according to a new report by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

"Governments need to get serious about identifying the full extent of the problem so they can get serious about eliminating it. The fact that slavery -- in the form of human trafficking -- still exists in the 21st Century shames us all," UNODC Executive Director Antonio Maria Costa said in introducing the 123-page report April 24.

"The traffickers' web spans the whole planet: people are moved from poor communities in the southern hemisphere to richer countries in the North. There is also a lot of South-South trafficking and a sprinkling of South-bound trade," Costa said.

Each year, millions of women and children along with a smaller percentage of men are abducted or recruited from 127 countries, transported through transit regions and end up in one of 137 countries for either sexual exploitation or forced labor, according to UNODC.

"A global problem like this requires a global response," Costa said.

Costa said that it is extremely difficult to establish how many victims there are worldwide since the level of reporting varies considerably from country to country. But the number of victims "certainly

runs into millions," he added.

The report, entitled *Trafficking in Persons: Global Patterns*, is the United Nations' first attempt to provide a global overview of the depth and scope of the problem, chart trafficking patterns and lay out a challenge to the international community to intensify efforts to fight the problem.

It presents case studies highlighting the plight of victims and lists countries on a scale from "very low" to "very high" as points of origin, transit, and destination. Data were provided by selected institutions dealing with trafficking between 1996 and 2003.

The report, Costa said, "having placed a few flags on the map -- lets readers, and [U.N.] member states, journey from one painful spot on the globe to the next."

The UNODC said adult women are the most frequent victims followed by girls, boys and men.

Trafficking for sexual exploitation was reported more frequently than for forced labor, the report said. In situations in which sources expressly reported exploitation of boys, that exploitation tended to be in the labor market; sexual exploitation was reported more frequently among girls.

Countries high on the list of "origin countries" are Albania, Belarus, Bulgaria, China, Lithuania, Nigeria, Moldova, Romania, Russia, Thailand and Ukraine, according to the report. High on the list of destinations are Belgium, Germany, Greece, Israel, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Thailand, Turkey and

the United States.

Some regions are predominantly destinations for trafficked victims -- Western Europe, North America, Western Asia and Turkey, while the Commonwealth of Independent States is largely an origin region. Africa, Asia, Central and South Eastern Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean are significant regions for both origin and destination, according to the report.

### ADDRESSING THE PROBLEM

Methods to tackle the problem include demolishing the markets generating profits for the traffickers, addressing the demand for cheap labor and exploitative services, dealing with underlying poverty and lack of opportunities that create a willing pool of potential victims and targeting the intermediaries who have built a criminal industry as go-betweens dealing in human beings, the UNODC said.

Traffickers capitalize on weak law enforcement and poor international cooperation, the report said. The organized criminal gangs behind human trafficking are often multinational in membership and operations.

UNODC said that relatively few trafficking cases are prosecuted successfully. Countries that have been prosecuting traffickers include: the Netherlands (in 2003) where 117 people were prosecuted with 106 convictions; the United States (2004), with 59 prosecutions and 43 convictions; and Ukraine (2003), with 59 cases and 11 convictions.

*(Continued on page 22)*

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## Effective Law Enforcement Key to Fighting Trafficking

By Alexandra Abboud  
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington – Approximately 1 million women and children are trafficked each year, and the arrest and conviction of perpetrators by effective law enforcement officials plays a vital role in eliminating trafficking, Sharon Cohen, vice president of interventions for International Justice Mission (IJM), told a State Department hosted online discussion April 20.

The USINFO webchat was part of the Democracy Dialogues (<http://www.democracy.gov/>) series. The series examines women's issues, including violence against women such as trafficking and forced prostitution.

Many countries' legal systems are not effectively or swiftly prosecuting individuals who commit crimes against women, Cohen said. In some cases, such as the rape of a child, it might take up to

four years for the case to be heard. The government's failure to protect victims of trafficking or forced prostitution from intimidation during that long process also complicates matters. "Fear and intimidation often inhibit justice," Cohen said.



One million women and children are trafficked each year. (BBC Photo)

According to Cohen, the community at large also plays an important role in combating trafficking. When someone suspects that a young girl or woman is being trafficked, that individual should notify local anti-trafficking and women's organizations, or trustworthy law enforcement officials.

One participant asked about the importance of women's involvement in the fight against trafficking. Women need to be at the forefront of policymaking efforts to

prevent trafficking, said Cohen. "In many countries the Minister of Women's Affairs is a powerful advocate against trafficking but there need to be more women involved in every level of government and civil society," she said.

Information on upcoming webchats and a transcript of the online discussion with Cohen are available on the USINFO Webchat Station (<http://usinfo.state.gov/usinfo/Products/Webchats.html>).

For additional information, see Human Trafficking ([http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/global\\_issues/human\\_trafficking.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/global_issues/human_trafficking.html)) and Responses to Human Trafficking (<http://usinfo.state.gov/journals/itgic/0603/ijge/ijge0603.htm>).

*(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>) ♦*

## Religious Freedom Important in Schools, Says U.S. Scholar . . .

*(Continued from page 17)*

ization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. He formerly served as senior adviser for the U.S. ambassador for international religious freedom at the U.S. Department of State. He has been a visiting professor at universities in France, Canada, Tunisia and Germany, and published numerous works on American and French legal and religious history and religious liberty

themes. He received his Ph. D. in religion and society from Harvard University. (See his biography (<http://www.aclu.org/about/staff/20074prs20050714.html>) on the ACLU Web site.)

More information about religion in America is available in the USINFO ejournal The Religious Landscape of the United States (<http://usinfo.state.gov/journals/itsv/0397/ijse/>

[tocsv.htm](http://usinfo.state.gov/journals/itsv/0397/ijse/tocsv.htm)). Also see International Religious Freedom ([http://usinfo.state.gov/dhr/human\\_rights/intl\\_religious\\_freedom.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/dhr/human_rights/intl_religious_freedom.html)).

*(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>) ♦*

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## Religious Freedom Important in Schools, Says U.S. Scholar

By Sara Feuerstein  
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- An American scholar who extensively has studied religious freedom in Europe and America believes schools should teach young people about the importance of religion as a motivator of human behavior, but unless they are private schools they should not espouse a particular religious belief.

"Many of the conflicts that exist in the world today [both in the United States and internationally] come from people not really understanding religion," said Jeremy Gunn during an April 24 webchat. "It is important to learn about it. The important thing, however, is that the state not attempt to indoctrinate children on religious matters."

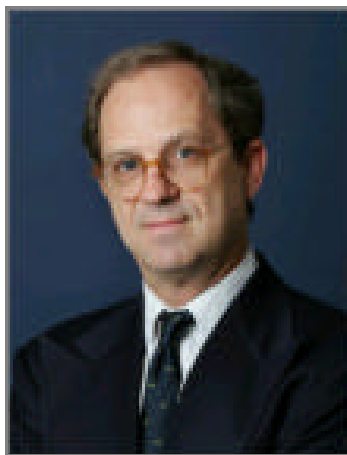
"Religion is too important to be given to the state to decide what is true and false," said Gunn, who is director of the American Civil Liberties Union's Program on Freedom of Religion and Belief.

During the State Department-sponsored webchat, Gunn discussed the different roles of religion in American and European schools, current religious debates in American schools and the right to religious freedom and expression.

Because freedom of religion and freedom of conscience "are so important for human beings," he said, schools should attempt to accommodate children's religious beliefs to the greatest extent possible. "I believe students -- Muslims, Sikhs, and others -- should be

permitted to wear religious clothing and symbols to state schools. Of course, they cannot be disruptive in schools or use the symbols to proselytize others," Gunn said.

Although state-funded schools should be allowed and encouraged to teach lessons about religion, teachers should not indoctrinate students or promote one religious



Jeremy Gunn

ones. Many European state schools teach religion, but in most cases students who do not wish to have a religious education are permitted to attend a "more neutral course on ethics," Gunn said.

American public schools, in comparison, are allowed to discuss religion's history and ideas, but teachers are prohibited from promoting any kind of religious belief, Gunn said. Many private schools in America are religious; they must satisfy state education standards but also can provide religious education.

According to Gunn, the major current issue involving religion in U.S. schools is a Georgia state statute allowing Bible classes to be taught in public schools. He feels it

interpretation over another, Gunn said.

He pointed out that religion is more likely to be taught in European state schools than in American

is "perfectly permissible" for state schools to teach classes about religion, but "if teachers attempt to promote a Protestant, or Jewish, or Catholic interpretation [of the Bible] -- that would be wrong and it would be unconstitutional."

On the teaching of so-called "intelligent design" in schools alongside or instead of evolution theory, Gunn said that the ACLU's position is that it is acceptable to discuss intelligent design as a theory some people believe about Earth's creation, "intelligent design should not be taught as if it is science in schools" because the theory is based on faith and religious beliefs.

He considers the concept of religious freedom to be a global ideal. Religious freedom "is believed all over the world -- particularly by people whose rights are being abused by governments. People everywhere are seeking freedom of expression, freedom to vote, and freedom to practice their religion," Gunn said.

Almost all countries formally agree to the concept of religious freedom, he said, and numerous states have ratified the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and other international treaties. However, many states that formally recognize this right "do not practice it at home," Gunn said.

Gunn began the webchat by saying that he was expressing his personal opinions.

Gunn is a member of the advisory panel of experts on freedom of religion or belief of the Organi-

*(Continued on page 16)*

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## Governments, Nongovernmental Organizations Promote Press Freedom

Washington — Each year, May 3 marks World Press Freedom Day when the importance of a free press to civil society is celebrated and the state of press freedom around the world is evaluated. The day also serves as a reminder to governments to respect their commitments to uphold the fundamental rights of journalists and their public audience's right to be informed about the state of their countries and the world.

The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed May 3 as World Press Freedom Day in 1993 to be a reminder to the world that in many countries the independence of the media is threatened by government censorship of newspapers and other media, and in some cases, the lives of journalists are threatened as they work to bring light to issues of public importance.

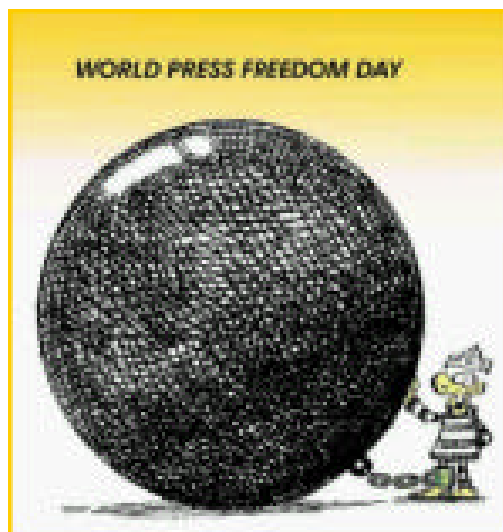
### FREE INSTITUTIONS

Press freedom and the extent to which independent media thrive vary greatly around the world, according to organizations such as Freedom House and the Committee to Protect Journalists that support a free press. Press freedom is nonexistent in some countries but thriving in others. Often, there is a mixture involving some degree of press freedom but also serious restrictions. Consequently, the task of supporting independent media is complex and very much dependent on the reality of life in particular areas.

The strongest impediments to independent media are in countries "where there is an absence of mature, civil institutions -- such as a well-functioning court system, and

a governmental framework that is free of corruption," according to Stanford University professor William Woo, an expert on journalism ethics.

"It's hard to develop independent media without complementary institutions," Woo says. For this



reason, he adds, support for independent media is necessarily connected to broader efforts to support democracy, the rule of law and human rights. Many governments and civil society organizations around the world work throughout the year to promote the values celebrated on World Press Freedom Day.

### THE ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS

The Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) is one of several organizations in the United States dedicated to press freedom and the protection of journalists worldwide. Founded by U.S. foreign correspondents in response to the treatment of their foreign colleagues by authoritarian governments and others seeking to curb

freedom of the press, CPJ operates in more than 120 countries worldwide.

According to Abi Wright, CPJ's communications director, the status of press freedom around the world has been affected greatly both by the emergence of new media, including the Internet, and by recent events such as the war in Iraq.

Today, CPJ is "focused very much on the Internet and the impact that it has had on freedom of expression, writers and journalists around the world in countries like China, Vietnam and Cuba," said Wright. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/dhr/Archive/2006/Apr/12-842034.html>).)

For example, CPJ issues news alerts calling for the release of jailed Internet bloggers, and staff members have testified before Congress against various forms of state censorship on the Internet. In 2005, CPJ documented Internet censorship in 22 countries.

According to CPJ, current conflicts have also had an effect on the safety of journalists around the world. "The state of press freedom is linked to current events," said Wright. "When there's a crackdown in a country like Nepal [where 200 journalists recently were jailed], and when there's war in a place like Iraq, it takes a toll on local journalists."

However, attacks on the press are more widely documented today, said Wright, due much in part to organizations like CPJ, which is

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## Governments, Nongovernmental Organizations Promote Press Freedom . . .

*(Continued from page 18)*

celebrating its 25th anniversary.

"Our work has had an impact in terms of raising the profile of attacks on journalists, bringing those attacks to the attention of governments and officials, and calling for justice," she said. "There is more activism and advocacy taking place, which has had an impact."

### U.S. SUPPORT FOR PRESS FREEDOM

In the United States, press freedom is protected by the U.S. Constitution's First Amendment, and the scope of that protection, over the years, has been expanded and defined by various U.S. Supreme Court cases. (See related article ([http://usinfo.state.gov/dd/democracy\\_dialogues/freedom\\_speech/free\\_speech\\_essay-1.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/dd/democracy_dialogues/freedom_speech/free_speech_essay-1.html)).)

The U.S. government supports press freedom worldwide through a number of programs adminis-

tered in part by the U.S. Department of State.

The State Department's Bureau of International Information Programs, for example, manages the U.S. Speaker and Specialist Program, which sends experts overseas to speak about a variety of issues, including freedom of the press.

Other programs bring foreign journalists to the United States to meet with their counterparts and observe journalistic practices. In April 2006, for example, the State Department announced the formation of the Edward R. Murrow Journalism Program, a public-private partnership that enables foreign journalists to study and examine U.S. journalistic practices. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/dhr/Archive/2005/Dec/14-677471.html>).)

Addressing the 2006 Murrow journalism program participants on April 21, Secretary of State Con-

doleezza Rice said that press freedom is a key to emerging democracies.

"Our Founding Fathers in the United States understood right away the importance of a free press, that without a free press to report on the activities of government, to ask questions of officials, to be a place where citizens can express themselves, democracy simply can't work," Rice said. "You are doing some of the most important work of democracy in working as journalists."

For more information, see Freedom of the Press ([http://usinfo.state.gov/dhr/democracy/rule\\_of\\_law/press\\_freedom.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/dhr/democracy/rule_of_law/press_freedom.html)) and Internet Freedom ([http://usinfo.state.gov/dhr/democracy/internet\\_freedom.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/dhr/democracy/internet_freedom.html)).

*(Distributed by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>) ♦*

## Bush Urges Calm, Respectful Discussion of Immigration Reform . . .

*(Continued from page 9)*

which has hijacked a great religion to suit their political needs."

The only way to deal with these terrorists, he said, "is to stay on the offense, to pressure them and to bring them to justice."

He also emphasized the importance of denying terrorists safe haven. "We denied them safe haven in Afghanistan, and we're denying them safe haven in Iraq," Bush said.

The president said he takes the words of the enemy very seriously. "[W]hen the enemy speaks -- and they speak quite often -- we listen carefully. We listen to their aims and their objectives."

"These are not a kind of isolated angry people. These are folks bound together by an ideology that is totalitarian in nature. They believe that capitalism produces weak societies. They want to spread their idea of life throughout the Middle East. ... And they believe that with time, they can es-

tablish a safe haven in Iraq."

The "confluence" of a terrorist network and Iraq, with its wealth and knowledge in producing weapons of mass destruction, "is the biggest threat the United States of America faces."

But the most powerful weapon of the enemy, he said, "is the willingness and capacity to kill innocent people." Terrorists view American compassion as a weakness, he said.

*(Continued on page 22)*

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## Murrow Program Journalists See American Media in Action

By Sara Feuerstein  
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington – More than 100 journalists from around the world took part in the State Department's inaugural Edward R. Murrow International Program for Journalists. On April 20, some talked about the pressures they face in their own countries as well as the strengths and weaknesses they see in American journalism.

The daylong symposium featured a panel of print and broadcasting journalists who explored contemporary issues in journalism, a panel discussion on the government's relationship with the media and finally a roundtable with nine Murrow program journalists and eight U.S. journalists.

The roundtable discussion at the State Department wrapped up the program, which is named after Edward R. Murrow, who was one of America's most respected broadcast journalists. The program brought 124 journalists representing television, radio and print media to the United States for three weeks to examine American journalistic practices. They also had the opportunity to speak frankly with journalists, students and citizens. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/dhr/Archive/2005/Dec/14-677471.html>).)

One of biggest contemporary concerns voiced by both American and international journalists was the tension reporters often feel between the need to report the news and the responsibility to protect national security.

"I would not broadcast something I personally believe would

harm national security," said American television journalist George Stephanopoulos -- a former press secretary for President Clinton -- "but I need to decide, not the government."



**Edward R. Murrow, who was one of America's most respected broadcast journalists. March 1954,**  
*Photo: Bettmann/Corbis*

ton -- "but I need to decide, not the government."

During the roundtable discussion, the Murrow participants shared how they view their mission as journalists and what pressures they face in their countries. They also debated with their American counterparts the differences between journalistic activism, which attempts to change society, and journalism that simply states facts.

"I believe our role is to be the person with the flashlight in a dark room, the alarm at the firehouse," said David Bohrman, the Washington Bureau chief of CNN, a 24-hour cable news network. He called the media "America's fourth branch of government," because it monitors the government's policies and checks its facts.

He agreed with American Bill Kovach, founding director of the Committee of Concerned Journalists and a former New York Times Washington bureau chief, that reporters should provide the public with facts and information to allow individuals to make informed decisions.

Journalists from other countries held slightly different views about their roles. Maysoon Mohamed Osman, radio presenter for the U. N. Mission to Sudan, said she strives to "give a voice to the voiceless" and feels that she works on behalf of people who are not free to express their opinions.

Similarly, Paulo Derrick Augustine, a senior reporter for Singapore's Today Daily, said journalists should "stand up for alternative voices."

William Alberto Fernandez-Soto of Costa Rica said journalists should be the "conscience" of people "isolated from information" by their governments. People use information to make decisions, and those without information can be dominated easily, he said. Salif Sanogo of Mali labeled his work an "education and sensitizing mission."

### OTHER PRESSURES

The roundtable also examined some of the pressures faced by journalists around the world.

Bill Gertz, a reporter for the Washington Times, cited competition with other newspapers and media sources, including the Internet. Everyone has rapid access to

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## Murrow Program Journalists See American Media in Action . . .

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the same information, and this makes it more difficult to obtain exclusive stories, he said.

Wojciech Rogacin of Newsweek Polska said competition with other papers creates another kind of pressure -- the need to finish stories quickly, perhaps before all the facts are in.

Paulo Derrick Augustine of Singapore said there is pressure from the public and other journalists to be credible and to be more than just a mouthpiece of the government.

Several journalists cited political pressures from their governments, which do not allow space for criticism and which occasionally threaten journalists' jobs, their freedom to express their views or even their physical well-being.

And even media that is free of government control can be corrupted by "corporatization" in which businesses and their stories dominate the pages of newspapers, said Kinshalay Bhattacharjee of India's DNTV 24X7 News Channel. Similarly, a lack of financial independence can pressure smaller enterprises that must pay heed to their financial supporters and advertisers, he said.

### OPINIONS ON AMERICAN JOURNALISM

The symposium also provided a platform for journalists to share their views and opinions about American journalism after spending three weeks in the United States.

Most agreed that Americans enjoy freedom of the press and that journalists are free to criticize the government without fear of consequences; however, many voiced concerns about American media's coverage of international issues.

An Algerian reporter in the audience said that American journalists enjoy tremendous freedom but "U.S. media as a whole is too centered on itself." He also lamented that reporters only come to his country to document disasters, HIV/AIDS, war and famine. "Where are American journalists when we are becoming more democratic and building our institutions?" he asked.

Sudan's Maysoon Mohamed Osman said that even though the American journalists she met here were well informed, they rarely documented the point of view of the "outer world." She felt that government officials from other countries and opposition parties in other countries are under-represented in American media.

Mali's Salif Sonogo offered a suggestion: "American media needs to learn from us -- they need to come here so they can be pleasantly surprised by what they find."

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice also spoke at the symposium. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/dhr/Archive/2006/Apr/24-297546.html>).)

The State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs collaborated with seven American journalism schools, the Aspen Institute and other private organizations to develop the Murrow program as a vital component of the department's International Visitor Leadership Program.

Additional information on the Edward R. Murrow Journalism Program (<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2006/63799.htm>) is available on the State Department Web site.

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## Bush Urges Calm, Respectful Discussion . . .

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"I happen to view it as a strength that we value every life, that every person is precious," Bush said.

Terrorists are trying to force the United States out of Iraq in order to secure a safe haven from which to launch further attacks, he said. But the United States has "a strategy in place to achieve victory," he said.

"I believe liberty is universal. I believe people want to be free. And I know that democracies do not war with each other. And I know that the best way to defeat the enemy -- the best way to defeat their ability to exploit hopelessness and despair is to give people a chance to live in a free society," the president said.

Bush said the Iraqi people have freely voted three times in just one year. With a new unity government formed in Iraq, "there's a new chapter in the relationship, and we're moving forward," he said. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/>

[mena/Archive/2006/Apr/24-589742.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/mena/Archive/2006/Apr/24-589742.html)).

"You know, it's really important for people to be able to connect the concept of freedom to our security," the president said.

"Democracy can help change the world and lay the foundation for peace. And that's what's happening today. These are historic times."

For more information on U.S. policies, see Response to Terrorism ([http://usinfo.state.gov/is/international\\_security/terrorism.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/is/international_security/terrorism.html)) and Iraq Update ([http://usinfo.state.gov/mena/middle\\_east\\_north\\_africa/iraq.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/mena/middle_east_north_africa/iraq.html)).

A transcript (<http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2006/04/20060424-2.html>) of Bush's remarks and a fact sheet (<http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2006/04/20060424-4.html>) on immigration reform are available on the White House Web site. ♦

## Human Trafficking a Global Problem, U.N. Report Says . . .

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In the United States, convictions of human traffickers have jumped 109 percent in five years, according to the Department of Justice report released March 15. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/Archive/2006/Mar/16-531442.html>)).

Costa cited three main challenges for governments:

Reducing demand, whether for cheap goods manufactured in sweatshops or for underpriced commodities produced by bonded people in farms and mines or for services provided by sex workers;

Targeting criminals who profit from the vulnerability of people trying to escape from poverty, unemployment, hunger and oppression;

Protecting trafficking victims, taking particular care to address the special needs of women and children.

Efforts to counter trafficking so far have been uncoordinated and inefficient, Costa said. "The lack of systematic reporting by authorities is a real problem. Governments need to try harder."

The United States became an official party to the U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children -- also known as the Palermo Protocol on December 3, 2005. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/eur/Archive/2005/Dec/02-186828.html>)).

In addition, the State Depart-

ment's annual report on human trafficking provides a basis for diplomatic engagement with countries on the issue, and it helps promote action and national commitment to fight trafficking in persons. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/Archive/2005/Jun/03-806322.html>)).

The full text ([http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/trafficking\\_persons\\_report\\_2006-04.html](http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/trafficking_persons_report_2006-04.html)) of the U.N. report is available on the United Nations Web site, as is the UNODC press release ([http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/press\\_release\\_2006\\_04\\_24.html](http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/press_release_2006_04_24.html)).

For information on U.S. efforts to combat trafficking in persons, see Human Trafficking ([http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/global\\_issues/human\\_trafficking.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/global_issues/human_trafficking.html)). ♦